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## Senior NCO Academy chief awarded Bronze Star

By Carl Bergquist  
*Dispatch Staff Writer*

Air University Commander Lt. Gen. John Regni presented the Bronze Star Medal to Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Lynn, Senior NCO Academy director of education, during a ceremony at the academy Tuesday.



Chief

Lynn

Speaking before an audience of more than 500 attendees, General Regni said it was his “distinct honor and privilege” to award the Bronze Star to Chief Lynn for meritorious service.

“My hat is off to you, chief, and as commander of AU, it makes me very proud of you,” he said.

Authorized on Feb. 4, 1944, the Bronze Star is awarded to members of all branches of military service and may be awarded either for combat heroism or for meritorious service.

During a five-month Iraqi deployment earlier this year, Chief Lynn and 13 Air Force security forces members established the first Iraqi military police academy to train Iraqi Army personnel to protect the new nation.

“Let me put what Chief Lynn did into perspective,” said General Regni. “In nine days, he and his team, starting with nothing, put a course together and implemented it.” The general said awarding the chief with the medal is that much more memorable because the chief, coming from an education and finance background, was doing work that was somewhat foreign to him.

The citation accompanying the medal said Chief Lynn’s leadership made “an historical impact on the Iraqi Army.”

After acknowledging his gratitude to the Senior NCO Academy and those who helped put the ceremony together, Chief Lynn said he was glad to be on stage accepting the award in person instead of his family accepting it for him posthumously.

“There were many times when all of us wondered if we were going to get back alive,” he said. “But we worked as a team beside the Iraqis, and even though we were being shelled, mortared and rocketed on a regular basis, the guys got the job done.”

Chief Lynn said everywhere they went there was danger, and the best way he could describe the assignment was being on “five months of an adrenaline high.”

He said that while he served as the commandant of the military police academy, it was the security forces members who turned a bombed-out former Republican Guard base into a police academy.

He described his team as “some of the most incredible forces I have encountered in my 25 years in service.”

“Who would have thought a guy like me would go from teaching school at the academy to being sent to teach Iraqi Army members and ending up with a Bronze Star,” he said.

“When I look at this medal, I will always think of the men I served with in Iraq,” said Chief Lynn. “When we got to Taji, Iraq, where the military police academy was to be built, they didn’t even know we were coming. However, by working together, we built and operated the school. And that is why I will always see the men I served with when I look at the medal.”

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